

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 186028

12

ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: NEA/EGY:GGBROWN:PM

APPROVED BY: NEA/EGY:HFMATTHEWS

----- 107229

R 062214Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 186028

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 4687 ACTION SECSTATE 23 JUL

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 4687

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI OIL EXPLORATION

REF: TEL AVIV 0589

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF ON JULY 21, MENACHEM CHEN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM AND ENERGY, SAID THAT ISRAEL INTENDS TO CONTINUE EXPLORATIONS FOR OIL AT AT TUR, NINETY KILOMETERS NORTH OF SHARM ASH SHAYKH ON LOWER WESTERN EDGE OF SINAI PENINSULA. CHEN SAID THAT SEVERAL DRY HOLES HAD ALREADY BEEN DRILLED AT AT TUR, BUT THAT ISRAELIS ARE CONFIDENT OF FINDING OIL THERE. DRILLINGS AT AT TUR WOULD BE CONDUCTED BOTH ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE IN THE GULF OF SUEZ.

2. REGARDING FUTURE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION PLANS,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 186028

CHEN SAID ALTHOUGH WIDE-RANGING AND EXTENSIVE DRILLING THROUGHOUT ISRAEL IN PAST HAD YIELDED THUS FAR ONLY

FAINT TRACES OF OIL AND GAS, ISRAEL WILL PERFORM BETWEEN

100 AND 200 ADDITIONAL DRILLINGS OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS.
NEW DEEP-DRILLING EQUIPMENT FROM UNITED STATES CAPABLE OF REACHING
DEPTHS OF 6,000 METERS IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN DECEMBER 1975 AND
TO GO INTO OPERATION BY FEBRUARY 1976. ASKED ABOUT
EXPLORATION SITES, CHEN MENTIONED REVIVIM, HALUZA, GEDERA,
PETAH TIKVA, REHOVOT, AND OFFSHORE BETWEEN ACCO AND
CAESAREA, ALL OF WHICH LIE WITH QUOTE GREEN LINE UNQUOTE.
HE EMPHASIZED THAT, APART FROM AT TUR AREA,
EXPLORATION WAS TO BE CONCENTRATED WITHIN ISRAEL'S PRE-
1967 BORDERS. (WHEN ASKED ABOUT CURRENT DRILLING AT
RAMALLAH ON WEST BANK, HE DECLINED DIRECT RESPONSE AND
STRESSED AGAIN THAT MAIN EFFORT WOULD BE WITHIN PRE-67
BORDERS) ISRAEL WILL SPEND 200 MILLION POUNDS IN
1975 AND 1976 (\$32.6 MILLION) FOR EXPLORATIONS, AND OVER
NEXT FIVE YEARS COULD SPEND UP TO ONE BILLION POUNDS
(\$163.3 MILLION). IF THESE AMBITIOUS EXPLORATIONS PLANS
DO NOT YIELD USABLE DEPOSITS, CHEN SAID, THEN HE WOULD BE
FORCED TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE IS NO OIL IN ISRAEL.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SUBTERRANEAN GEOLOGIC FORMATIONS
ARE SIMILAR TO OIL-BEARING FORMATIONS ELSEWHERE IN MIDDLE
EAST, WIDESPREAD DRILLING THUS FAR HAS PRODUCED
NOTHING WORTHWHILE. HOWEVER, MAJOR SOURCE OF INDIGENOUS
OIL WOULD BE OF SUCH VALUE MILITARILY AND ECONOMICALLY
TO ISRAEL THAT FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM DESCRIBED ABOVE WOULD
BE CHEAP IF EXPLORATION IS SUCCESSFUL.
TOON UNQUOTE KISSINGER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE186028
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/EGY:GGBROWN:PM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750272-0683
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750899/baaaarib.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: ENRG, IS
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006